

STATE review(s) completed.

O + M

4 November 1970

NOTE FOR : THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Interest in INR in Organizing an  
Intelligence Officers' Professional  
Society

Attachment: 22 October 1970 INR Draft Memo,  
John Thro to Ray Cline, "The Intelligence  
Forum"

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1. At the very close of a luncheon conversa-  
tion today with Messrs. Don Harris and John Thro of  
INR (concerning a study they have underway [redacted])  
[redacted] Mr. Thro (Capt., USN) handed me the  
attached memo for my information.

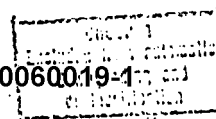
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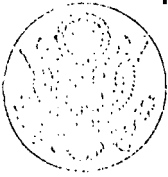
2. We had no conversation regarding it, other  
than a statement by Thro and Harris that Mr. Sherman  
Kent was one of the people they had talked with before  
producing the draft memo for Ray Cline. I have no  
knowledge of others Thro and Harris may have contacted  
in their "survey of a large number of intelligence  
officers." Thro's attached memo is the first I have  
heard of this matter, and I have no particular interest  
in the proposal, one way or the other.

3. I am forwarding copies of the attached, for  
info, to the offices of the DD/I, D/NIPE, and DCI.



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington, D.C. 20520

DRAFT

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

October 22, 1970

TO : INR - Mr. Ray S. Cline  
THROUGH: INR/DDC - Mr. Wymberley Coerr  
FROM : INR/DDC/RPS - John Thro  
SUBJECT: The Intelligence Forum

1. Our survey of a large number of intelligence officers indicate that there is considerable interest in participation in some type of professional society that would undertake studies and exchange experiences primarily in the non-substantive area of intelligence. Most also agreed that the way to start such an organization is simply to call a meeting and organize, keeping our seniors informed while not asking for any more than tacit approval at this early stage.

2. It is my intention therefore to invite a group of 30 to 40 intelligence officers from the various intelligence organizations to a two hour meeting sometime in December in one of the State Department conference rooms for the purpose of organizing an intelligence officer's professional society or forum. We have in mind that the organization would be encouraged for one year, after which the question of its pertinence and continuation should be raised and action taken accordingly.

3. At enclosure is an early draft of an information sheet which I propose to send to the officers invited to attend the December meeting. Our present thoughts relative to the purpose, organization, and activities are outlined in this draft.

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The Intelligence Forum

I. Objectives

1. The first objective of the Intelligence Forum will be to increase the depth of knowledge of professional intelligence officers in his profession. This will be done by the encouragement of activities such as:

a. the review of and extraction of lessons from the history of intelligence,

b. exchange of experience between contemporaries as well as the drawing on that of the older professionals,

c. study of new analytical methods developed within the profession or in related professions,

d. provision of a channel for the injection of new ideas, new learning, into the comparatively closed intelligence community,

e. contribution to the literature of intelligence.

2. The Forum will also attempt to improve the understanding in our government of the role intelligence should play in the policy-making process.

3. It will promote intelligence as a professional discipline, increase the interest of professionals in related disciplines in intelligence and its possibilities as well as its problems, and will strengthen the pride of the young intelligence officer for his profession.

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## II. Study and Discussion Topics

Some of the subjects that could be considered by the Forum are listed below:

1. Methods for increasing the effectiveness of the producer-user relationship.
2. Strengths and weaknesses of intelligence dissemination techniques.
3. The theory of indicators.
4. The role of intelligence in development of foreign policy.
5. Application of advanced social science techniques to the intelligence estimative process.
6. Evolution of the U.S. intelligence organization.

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III. Organization

1. The organization should be designed with the following considerations in mind:

a. To prevent overloading of Forum officers, administrative work loads will be spread over a number of personnel,

b. For purposes of continuity, principals in the organization should hold office for a period of at least 18 months,

c. In order that the heads of the intelligence agencies are able to provide guidance to the Forum when required, principal officers should be members of one of the intelligence agencies and be on duty in the Washington area.

2. The Forum would require the following elected officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary for Membership, Secretary for Programs, Secretary for Arrangements.

3. For each meeting, officers would be appointed to the following positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman for Program, Vice Chairman for Arrangements, Secretary of Meeting. As required, working group chairmen and secretaries would also be appointed.

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#### IV. Membership

1. It will not be a simple task to form an organization that is truly representative of the intelligence community, and still have one that is manageable. There are many dedicated intelligence officers in the Washington Area alone, all of whom must be considered professionals, and given an opportunity to take part in the activities of the forum. There is also the problem that some "specialists" consider themselves to be the only professionals.

2. In the beginning, membership will be on the basis of invitation only. The first or organizing meeting will be limited to officers who have already indicated interest. At this meeting a membership committee will be formed to determine membership policy and to issue invitations. Within a year it may be possible to be less restrictive in membership, but this decision should be based on a clearer understanding of interest and a better feel for the facilities available.

3. Personnel outside the government would be invited to participate in the Forum. Such participation will be necessary if the members of the Forum are to benefit from the studies and experience of intellectuals in the academic and the commercial world. Participation by these persons would be subject to review before each meeting by the invitations committee.

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V. Security Considerations

1. A group such as this should restrict its activities to non-substantive intelligence subjects. Within this area there are a very large number of subjects that could be studied and discussed without security restriction. Because, however, it is a forum of intelligence officers, and opinions of intelligence officers on active duty are being presented, some classification may always be necessary. Membership and attendance lists definitely will require classification, as will probably be most of the Forum's correspondence.

2. From time to time, special working groups may be formed to study problems requiring higher clearances. Clearances will normally not be requested for this purpose, and membership to the committee will be limited to those already holding the necessary clearance.

3. The Secretary for Programs will be responsible to the president for security matters.

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VI. Logistic Support

Logistic support for the first meeting, the meeting for organization, will be provided by INR, Department of State. Decisions relative to support for later meetings will be made at this meeting.